

## MINUTES

### **March 16, 2006 Meeting Income Maintenance Advisory Committee Division of Health Care Financing Department of Health and Family Services**

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**County Attendees:** Jackie Bennett, Racine Co.; Lynn Brenner, Calumet Co.; Sheila Drays, Dodge Co.; Joanne Faber, Washington Co.; Liz Green, Dane Co.; Jane Huebsch, Marathon Co.; Ed Kamin, Kenosha Co.; Doreen Lang, Wood Co.; Bob Macaux, Florence Co.; Chris Machamer, Waupaca Co.; Mike Poma, Milwaukee Co.; John Rathman, Outagamie Co.; Amy Roland, Outagamie Co.; Shirley Ross, LaCrosse Co.; Cindy Sutton, Rock Co.

**State Attendees:** Barb Apel, DHFS/OSF; Bernadette Connolly, DHFS/BEM; Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BEM; Brian Fangmeier, DHFS/BEM; Theresa Fosbinder, DHFS/BEM; John Haine, DHFS/BEM; Vicki Jessup, DHFS/BEM; Jim Jones, DHFS/BEM; Christina Martin, DWD; Bob Martin, DHFS/BEM; Mike McKenzie, DHFS/BEM; Amy Mendel-Clemens, DHFS/BEM; Jodi Ross, DHFS/BEM; Joanne Simpson, DHFS/BEM,

### **Administrative Items**

- January minutes were approved.
- Information on Child Welfare Training will go to Agency Financial Managers. Also, Ed Kamin will send out the information through WCHSA, and DHFS will send it out to the Area Administrators.
- DHCF is working with pilot counties on the program application timeliness reports that will be added to the IM Scorecard site at the end of April 2006. The IM Scorecard will also include information about the number of active cases, applications, reviews and changes by case type. We will also be adding FoodShare and Medicaid benefit expenditures by agency.
- Two new CARES projects are set to roll out in June, first is job placement for W2. Second, is the ACCESS online application. Training will be provided for both projects in May. DHFS and DWD have estimated that about 25% of IM workers will need to participate in both training activities.
- Agencies have asked if there would be more money for ACCESS outreach before the online application begins. The money for the Program Participation Grant, that funded ACCESS, has been expended.
- CWW access for query users is currently in the works. DHFS is working on developing clearer guidelines for which query-only users should have access to CARES.

### **CARES Notice Analysis and Redesign**

[View attached MS PowerPoint Presentation on CARES Notices.](#)

With BadgerCare Plus coming, DHFS has decided to completely re-engineer the CARES notice subsystem. DHFS will be talking with DWD about whether the child care and W-2 program notices and letters will be included in the new re-engineered Notice Subsystem.

### **MA Verification Policy Change**

[View attached MS PowerPoint Presentation on MA Verification.](#)

Agencies asked if the new Operations Memo would make the 2001 memo obsolete. Scott Riedasch explained that the new policy clarifies statements in the 2001 Ops Memo about when information provided by the

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applicant or recipient should be considered questionable. Agency representatives expressed their concern that it is not clear whether MA only applications should be sent for Front End Verification. DHFS will clarify this policy and process for local IM agencies in a CARES Call Center Recently Asked Questions (RAQ). Agencies asked if DHFS could data share with Illinois and Minnesota for border counties. DHFS will look into this option.

#### **Sub-Committee Reports**

##### **Quality Assurance Subcommittee**

[View attached 'QA Sub-Committee Status Report'.](#)

DHFS has already been asked to decrease the requirement that 100% of second party reviews for FoodShare and Medicaid cases be completed. At this point, DHFS will not provided an 'up front' waiver of the requirement, but will work with agencies that do not meet this requirement to ascertain what corrective actions should be taken by the agency. This will allow state and local agency staff to discuss challenges that have prevent 100% compliance and develop a plan that addresses those challenges. In addition, DHFS Managers will continually assess the 2<sup>nd</sup> party review process and requirements after implementation based upon data gathered and our discussions with local agencies.

##### **Program Coordination Subcommittee**

Work continues on the ACCESS online application project. Program updates for W2, CC, MA, and FS remain a regular agenda item. This keeps the lines of communication open across departments. Future projects include budget initiatives and FS re-authorization in 2007.

#### **BadgerCare Plus**

BadgerCare Plus advisors met with Helene Nelson and others in DHFS. BadgerCare Plus is expected to include:

- Expanded eligibility for pregnant women (up to 300% FPL), children (no income limit), caretaker relatives (200% FPL) and parents whose children have been removed from the home by a child welfare agency (200% FPL).
- Simplified income methodology for BadgerCare Plus
- Reduced change reporting for BadgerCare Plus recipients;
- Removal of barriers imposed by the employer verification process; and,
- Consolidation of AFDC-Medicaid, Healthy Start and BadgerCare subprograms into a single BadgerCare Plus program.

In addition, DHFS will look at other ideas to reduce barriers to participate in the BadgerCare Plus program.

#### **Federal Budget Deficit Reduction Act**

DHFS is currently completing analysis on changes to Medicaid eligibility that were included in the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. These changes include a requirement that all Medicaid applicants and recipients who state that they are U.S. Citizens to document that citizenship and their identity. The second set

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of changes involves substantial changes to the Asset Transfer (Divestment) provisions in federal law. These include:

- 1) The divestment penalty period would begin on the first day in which the applicant/recipient has applied for and been found eligible for Long Term Care (LTC) Medicaid or the date of the asset transfer, whichever is later;
- 2) The divestment lookback period was changed from 36 to 60 months;
- 3) Divestment penalty periods will now be calculated to include partial months; and,
- 4) Individuals with home equity value above \$500,000 (or at the option of the state, \$750,000) will be ineligible for Medicaid to pay for LTC services.

### **Medicaid Disability Determination Issues**

The Disability Determination Bureau (DDB) in DHCF has been receiving incomplete Medicaid disability application forms. DHFS has determined that changes to the Medicaid handbook instructions and the Medicaid disability application form need to be made. An Operations Memo is being drafted that will specify the new policy and process that will need to be followed.

### **FS Payment Accuracy Update**

[View attached 'Reviews Actual vs. Estimates for FY 06'.](#)

Self employment error training is now available. DHFS recommends that all agency workers take it.